

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1                   1.     A method of scheduling an event with respect to a hard  
2     copy output engine, comprising:  
3                    detecting a first status of a first portion of the hard copy output  
4     engine from a first sensor incorporated in the hard copy output engine;  
5                    detecting a second status of a second portion of the hard copy  
6     output engine from a second sensor incorporated in the hard copy output  
7     engine;  
8                    composing an electronic message including the detected first and  
9     second status; and  
10                  transmitting the electronic message.
  
- 1                   2.     The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a first or second  
2     status includes detecting a toner low or toner out status.
  
- 1                   3.     The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a first or second  
2     status includes detecting a future need for preventative maintenance.
  
- 1                   4.     The method of claim 1, wherein composing an electronic  
2     message includes composing the electronic message to include information  
3     chosen from a list consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable, to whom  
4     assigned, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected  
5     completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date,  
6     follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind  
7     beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list,  
8     resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status,  
9     consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative  
10    maintenance items.

1           5.     The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a first or second  
2 status includes detecting a first or second status from a list of status items  
3 consisting of: toner out, toner low, preventative maintenance alerts, including  
4 cleaning or replacement of component parts, consumables orders and low or  
5 "out of" status for other consumables or need for other maintenance items.

1           6.     The method of claim 1, wherein the hard copy output  
2 engine is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers  
3 and printers.

1           7.     The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the electronic  
2 message comprises transmitting an electronic message including a consumable  
3 order.

1           8.     An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable  
2 medium having computer readable code embodied therein to cause a processor  
3 to:  
4                 detect a first status of a first portion of the hard copy output  
5 engine from a first sensor incorporated in the hard copy output engine;  
6                 detect a second status of a second portion of the hard copy output  
7 engine from a second sensor incorporated in the hard copy output engine;  
8                 compose an electronic message including the detected first and  
9 second status; and  
10                transmit the electronic message.

1           9.     The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer  
2 readable code configured to cause a processor to detect a first or second status  
3 includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to detect a  
4 toner low or toner out status.

1           10.    The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer  
2   readable code configured to cause a processor to detect a first or second status  
3   includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to detect a  
4   future need for preventative maintenance.

5           11.    The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer  
6   readable code configured to cause a processor to compose an electronic  
7   message includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to  
8   compose the electronic message to include information chosen from a list  
9   consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable, to whom assigned, blind  
10   carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected completion date,  
11   defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date, follow-up flag,  
12   importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind beforehand,  
13   reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list, resources, sensitivity,  
14   date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status, consumables order list,  
15   maintenance items, malfunction and preventative maintenance items.

1           12.    The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer  
2   readable code configured to cause a processor to detect a first or second status  
3   includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to detect a  
4   status chosen from a list of status items consisting of: toner out, toner low,  
5   preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or replacement of  
6   component parts, consumables orders and low or "out of" status for other  
7   consumables or need for other maintenance items.

8           13.    The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer  
9   readable code configured to cause a processor to detect a first or second status  
10   comprises computer readable code configured to cause the processor to detect  
11   a status of a hard copy output engine chosen from a group consisting of:  
12   facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

1           14. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer  
2 readable code configured to cause a processor to transmit comprises computer  
3 readable code configured to cause the processor to transmit an electronic  
4 message including a consumable order.

1           15. A computer implemented control system for a hard copy  
2 output engine, the system comprising:  
3           a first sensor coupled to a first portion of the hard copy output  
4 engine, the first sensor being configured to provide a first status of the first  
5 portion;  
6           a second sensor coupled to a second portion of the hard copy  
7 output engine, the second sensor being configured to provide a second status of  
8 the second portion; and  
9           processing circuitry coupled to the first and second sensors and  
10 configured to:  
11           detect the first status;  
12           detect the second status;  
13           compose an electronic message including the detected first  
14 and second status; and  
15           transmit the electronic message.

1           16. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processor configured to detect the first and second status includes  
3 a processor configured to detect a toner low or toner out status.

1           17. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processor configured to detect a first and second status includes a  
3 processor configured to detect a future need for preventative maintenance.

1           18. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processor configured to compose an electronic message includes a  
3 processor configured to compose the electronic message to include information  
4 chosen from a list consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable, to whom  
5 assigned, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected  
6 completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date,  
7 follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind  
8 beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list,  
9 resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status,  
10 consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative  
11 maintenance items.

1           19. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processor configured to detect a first and second status includes a  
3 processor configured to detect a status chosen from a list of status items  
4 consisting of: toner out, toner low, preventative maintenance alerts, including  
5 cleaning or replacement of component parts, consumables orders and low or  
6 "out of" status for other consumables or need for other maintenance items.

1           20. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,  
2 wherein the processor configured to detect a first and second status comprises  
3 a processor configured to detect a first and second status of a hard copy output  
4 engine chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and  
5 printers.